AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [00159] and [00160] at page 34 as follows:

[00159] *In vitro* testing was done utilizing the traditional USP Apparatus 2 at 37°C, with a stirring speed of 100 RPM. Ca-alginate drug-loaded spheres coated with Eudragit® RS 30 D and equivalent to 160 mg of propranolol hydrochloride were dispersed using hand shaking in a suspension medium (15 mL) containing a hydrophilic colloid useful ~~both~~ as a polyelectrolyte ~~and~~ and/or suspending agent, and the suspension was added directly to 500 mL of simulated gastric fluid (SGF (i.e., the release medium). After 2 h of agitation, a sufficient quantity of tribasic sodium phosphate was then added to change the pH to 7.5, thus effectively changing the medium to simulated intestinal fluid for the remaining 10 h.

[00160] Eight suspensions containing different dispersion mediums were prepared and tested as described above. The hydrophilic colloid ~~polyelectrolytes~~ used in the dispersion media included hydoxypropylmethylcellulose ("HPMC") (F_1 and F_2)[,]; and hydrophilic colloid polyelectrolytes xanthan gum (F_3 and F_4), propylene glycol alginate (F_5), chitosan (F_6) and gelatin (F_7). The ionic content, pH; viscosity of the dispersion medium; and percentage of drug released into the dispersion medium were measured and the results provide in Table 3. Ionic content was the sum of the diffusible counter cations K^+, Na^+ and Ca^{2+} present in the hydrophilic colloids; pH indicates the extent of drug release from the core, *i.e.*, the lower the pH of the dispersion medium, the greater the extent of drug release; and viscosity is indicative of the effectiveness of the hydrophilic colloid as a suspending agent. The extent of drug release into the suspension medium is also provided in Table 3.